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**INTERVENCIÓN
EN NOMBRE DE LA UNIÓN EUROPEA
DEL**

**EXCMO. SR. D. MIGUEL AGUIRRE DE CÁRCER
EMBAJADOR EN MISIÓN ESPECIAL PARA DESARME**

**Conferencia de Examen de las Partes de 2010 del Tratado de No
Proliferación de las Armas Nucleares (TNP)**

Comité Principal I

Nueva York, 7 de mayo de 2010

(Cotejar con intervención definitiva)

**STATEMENT
ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
BY**

**H.E. MIGUEL AGUIRRE DE CÁRCER
SPECIAL AMBASSADOR FOR DISARMAMENT**

**2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

Main Committee I

New York, 7 May 2010

(Check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries Croatia^{*} and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia^{*}, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, and the EFTA Country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Georgia, Armenia and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

1.- I would like, first of all, to convey to you our firm determination to assist you in your endeavours as Chairman of this Committee with a view to contributing to a substantive and balanced outcome of the Review Conference, including the adoption of a set of concrete, effective, pragmatic and consensual measures for stepping up international efforts for pursuing disarmament.

2.- The European Union reaffirms its commitment to seeking a safer world for all and to creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons, in accordance with the goals of the NPT. We are convinced that intermediate steps on our path towards this objective can also represent significant increases in security for all. The EU is working for general disarmament, notably nuclear disarmament, and welcomes and supports the nuclear disarmament measures and initiatives taken by the two nuclear-weapon States which are members of the European Union.

3.- In the Decision recently adopted by the Council of the European Union, we have identified as a priority issue that we consider should be addressed by States parties at this Review Conference, within this Main Committee: reaffirming the commitment to and stressing the need for concrete advancements on the nuclear arms control and disarmament processes, especially through an overall reduction in the global stockpile of nuclear weapons, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT, taking into account the special responsibility of the States that possess the largest arsenals, and agreement on specific and early measures, including achieving rapid entry into force of the CTBT and the start of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on an FMCT, as indispensable steps towards fulfilment of the obligations and final objective enshrined in Article VI of the NPT.

4.- The 27 Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the European Union endorsed, in December 2008, concrete and realistic disarmament initiatives, which the EU presented to the 2009 NPT PrepCom, as part of its forward-looking proposals on all three pillars of the NPT which could be part of an action plan to be adopted by the Review Conference. In addition to the points just raised, we continue to regard the following elements as highly pertinent:

^{*} Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

- a. The universal ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty; the completion of its verification regime; and the dismantling, as soon as possible, of all nuclear testing facilities in a manner that is transparent and open to the international community;
- b. The start, without delay and without preconditions, of negotiations for a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons (FMCT) and the introduction of an immediate moratorium on the production of such material;
- c. The establishment of transparency and confidence-building measures by the nuclear powers;
- d. Further progress in the current discussions between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on the development of a legally binding post-START arrangement and an overall reduction in the global stockpile of nuclear weapons in accordance with article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in particular by the States that possess the largest arsenals;
- e. The inclusion of tactical nuclear weapons, by those states which have them, in their general arms control and disarmament processes, with a view to their reduction and elimination;
- f. The start of consultations on a treaty banning short- and intermediate-range ground-to-ground missiles;
- g. The adherence to and implementation by all of the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCoC);
- h. Mobilisation in all other areas of disarmament.

The EU welcomes the progress achieved in some of these areas, in particular the recent agreement between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on strategic arms reductions, and hopes that all NPT States Parties as well as States not yet Party to the NPT will join us in promoting these disarmament initiatives.

5.- We welcome the considerable nuclear arms reductions which have taken place since the end of the Cold War, including by the two nuclear-weapon States which are members of the European Union, and we stress the need for an overall reduction in nuclear arsenals in the pursuit of gradual, systematic nuclear disarmament under Article VI of the NPT, taking into account the special responsibility of the States that possess the largest arsenals.

6.- We also welcome in this respect the significant new agreement between the United States and the Russian Federation on a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which is an essential step forward as both countries still retain around 95% of the world's nuclear weapons stockpiles, as well as their renewed engagement on other strategic issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation. We encourage both States concerned to work towards new agreements for further, comprehensive reductions of their nuclear arsenals, including non-strategic nuclear weapons.

7.- In that respect, the EU recalls the continued existence of significant deployed and stockpiled non-strategic arsenals which are not covered by formal arms control agreements and the commitment contained in the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference on this subject. Reduction and final elimination of non-strategic nuclear weapons are integral parts of the nuclear disarmament process to which all States Parties are committed under Art. VI of the NPT.

8.- The EU therefore calls on all States parties possessing such weapons to include them in their general arms control and disarmament processes, with a view to their verifiable and irreversible reduction and elimination, while agreeing to the importance of further transparency and confidence-building measures in order to advance this nuclear disarmament process. We also encourage the United States and the Russian Federation to further develop the unilateral 1991/92 Presidential initiatives and to include non-strategic nuclear weapons in the next round of their bilateral nuclear arms reductions, leading to lower ceilings for the numbers of both strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons in their arsenals.

9.- We also stress the need for agreement on specific and early measures, including achieving rapid entry into force of the CTBT and the start of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on an FMCT. A CTBT and FMCT would develop a global cap on nuclear arsenals which is crucial for making further progress on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

10.- Since the CTBT forms an essential part of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible, we will work at this Review Conference for a strong commitment towards the universal ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, particularly by the nine remaining States listed in Annex II of the Treaty that have not yet done so. We welcome in this regard the recent commitments by the United States towards early ratification of the CTBT and the announcement that Indonesia is initiating the process of ratification of the CTBT. Pending its entry into force, we call on all States to abide by a moratorium on nuclear test explosions, to refrain from any action contrary to the obligations and provisions of the Treaty and to dismantle, as soon as possible, all nuclear testing facilities in a manner that is transparent and open to the international community. This is an essential step to create confidence.

11.- The CTBT is an instrument that is crucial to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Its entry into force will strengthen the international security architecture, which is based on the NPT. The EU will continue to offer practical support, both for the universalisation of the CTBT and the credibility of its verification regime. We commend the progress achieved in the build-up of the verification regime of the CTBT, particularly through the International Monitoring System, which demonstrated its efficiency in detecting clandestine nuclear tests by DPRK. The EU is financially contributing to the strengthening of the CTBTO monitoring and verification system.

12.- Logically, an FMCT constitutes the next multilateral instrument to be negotiated in the nuclear disarmament field and would thus complement the NPT and CTBT. A major step was achieved last year at the Conference on Disarmament (CD) for the commencement of the negotiations on a FMCT, on the basis of document CD/1299 of 24 March 1995 and the mandate contained therein, as agreed in the Decision of 29 May 2009 of the Conference on Disarmament adopted by consensus for the establishment of a Programme of Work for the 2009 session (CD/1864). We expect this Review Conference to urge States to commence negotiations without further delay on this basis and to reach an early agreement on such a treaty.

13.- We appeal to all delegations in the CD, particularly to those delegations that oppose the approval of a program of work based on the one approved by consensus in CD/1864, to work towards achieving consensus in order to enable the CD to start as soon as possible the negotiation of an FMCT.

14.- Pending entry into force of such a Treaty, we call on all States concerned to declare and uphold an immediate moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, as well as to dismantle or convert for non-explosive use only, the facilities dedicated to the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons. In this context, we welcome the action of those of the five nuclear-weapon States, in particular within the EU, which have decreed the relevant moratoria and dismantled such facilities.

15.- The European Union will pursue consideration of the issue of security assurances to the non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to the NPT. The EU recognizes the continuing high value of the legally binding security assurances to non-nuclear weapon States Parties to the NPT on the use of or threat of use of nuclear weapons, provided for by the protocols to the treaties establishing nuclear weapon free zones and the unilateral declarations of nuclear weapon States, noted by UNSC Resolution 984/1995 and reaffirmed at the 2000 NPT Review Conference, which strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Positive and negative assurances can play an important role in the NPT regime and can serve as an incentive to forego the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction.

16.- We call on all States concerned to take appropriate practical measures in order to reduce the risk of accidental nuclear war.

17.- The EU stresses the need to work for disarmament. Non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control, together with confidence, transparency and reciprocity are vital aspects of collective security. In particular, non proliferation and disarmament are mutually reinforcing. We recognise the application of the principle of irreversibility to guide all measures in the field of nuclear disarmament and arms control, as a contribution to the maintenance and reinforcement of international peace, security and stability, taking these conditions into account. We are pursuing efforts to secure transparency as a voluntary confidence building measure and encourage all States possessing nuclear weapons to agree and implement further

transparency measures. The EU welcomes the increased transparency on current nuclear weapons holdings shown by some nuclear weapon States, in particular by two EU Member States.

18.- The question of the proliferation of missiles which could be used to deliver weapons of mass destruction is also a matter of major concern in the context of international security. Recently conducted missiles tests outside all the existing transparency and pre-notification schemes deepen our concerns in this respect. The aggravation of missile proliferation, in particular with short- and intermediate-range, requires from the international community to come up with a collective and normative response. For these ends, we propose to start consultations on a multilateral treaty banning short- and intermediate-range ground-to-ground missiles. They could in particular enable us to determine how such a treaty may contribute to addressing concerns regarding missiles, to eliminating existing lacunas in existing arrangements regarding missiles and to strengthening security at global and regional level.

19.- We believe that universalisation of The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCoC) and its enhancement could contribute significantly to the strengthening of the global non-proliferation and disarmament efforts by increasing confidence and transparency in this field. We invite all HCoC Subscribing States to comply with their obligations. Continued lack of adherence to the provisions of pre-launch notifications and annual declarations undermines the Code's mission.

20.- We need also to address broader strategic matters and to advance the general arms control and disarmament processes. We must work together to achieve further progress on all aspects of disarmament, to reduce international tensions and to resolve the problems of regional instability and insecurity to enhance global security.

Mr. Chairman,

20.- The EU will continue to work at this Review Conference for all States to undertake disarmament initiatives, in a way that promotes international stability and based on the principle of undiminished security for all, in the process of working toward the elimination of nuclear weapons, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT.

21.- We wish to assure you, Mr. Chairman, and all States parties to the NPT of our determination to engage in serious and pragmatic discussions and negotiations on all issues considered within Main Committee I, in order to contribute to a substantive and balanced outcome of this 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.